

mrs. j. l. osgar

## FOREWORD

IT REQUIRED more than ordinary foresight and faith to publish a newspaper through sixty unbroken years in the Canadian North

West, especially the sixty tumultuous years which stretched from the infancy of Territorial Government to the end of the depression of the nineteen-thirties. But, following the motto "PROGRESS" which "P.G." Laurie fixed to his masthead in Battleford on August 25th, 1878, the Laurie family did it; and from that first issue down to the last, on January 26th, 1938, the Saskatchewan Herald's reputation for integrity and accurate reporting grew until it became a by-word.

Naturally such a reputation could only spring from one stream: the qualities inherent in its publishers and staff.

Old "P.G." showed his colors first in Winnipeg in 1870 by defying Louis Riel's order to manage the rebel press; and he flew them high until the day in 1903 when he closed his office desk for the last time, knowing they would be guarded steadfastly by his children who would publish the paper after him.

There was brilliant "Dick," who alternated between publishing the Herald and engineering when he wasn't away serving King and Country; there was "Will," who followed law, but won from Geo. Ham of the Winnipeg Free Press rating in his memoirs as "the best longhand reporter the world ever saw"; and there was "Jessie" (Mrs. J. C. DeGear), who, time would show, could serve the paper well when needed.

Loyalty to the Crown, to the Conservative Party, and to the Town—these were the hallmarks of the Laurie tradition. Except for royalty the Herald came out in mourning for no one but Sir John A. Macdonald and P. G. Laurie. But with equal consistency the paper championed every matter of local import, and fought persistently for the rights of town and district.

"Dick" passed on in 1938, and so did the Herald; but before they went Dick had begun gathering material for a series of pamphlets entitled, "Stories of Old Times from the Saskatchewan Herald Files." Death's hand cut short the work with the first one complete except for the printing of the last page. In true Laurie tradition, Jessie DeGear, Dick's sister and long time associate in the plant with type-stick and setting rule, determined to see it completed. The last page was printed from the original type in 1949 by the Herald's last surviving competitor. This week (1951), now 83 and the sole surviving member of the Laurie family, Mrs. DeGear finished collating the material and passed it on to the binders.

The Herald's Song, overleaf reveals that the essence of the Lauries was optimism. The twentieth century—Canada's century—testifies the justification of their faith.

J. D. HERBERT, M.A.

# Stories Of The Old Times From The Saskatchewan Herald Files

August 25, 1878

## THE "HERALD'S" SONG

I was born without pomp or glory,  
Unfettered but uncarressed,  
Amid hills eternal and hoary,  
In the land of the Golden West.  
  
By the side of the rushing river,  
Sweeping with tireless speed,  
I have sprung into life and being  
To ACHIEVE and to SUCCEED.  
  
As the pilgrim sad and forsaken  
Toils on his weary way.  
So, with a faith unshaken,  
I will work while 'tis called to-day.  
  
I will grow old as the vine that twineth  
Till I stand alone in my might;  
I will live as the star which shineth  
Thro' the shadows of the night.  
  
If danger, or gloom, or sorrow,  
Should lower their pall to-day.  
I WILL LIVE, for a sunny to-morrow  
Shall glorify my way.  
  
I will speak, and in tones of thunder,  
Udaunted by human fears,  
I will scatter and rend asunder  
The gloom of a thousand years.  
  
I will open this mighty region  
Till the land shall ring again  
With the tramp of a restless legion  
Garnering its golden grain.

I will toil with a zeal unceasing  
Thro' my springtime and my youth,  
Till I stand, with a power increasing,  
Th' exponent of steadfast truth.  
  
Till the red man's wild traditions  
Lose their triumphant sway—  
Till errors and superstitions  
Be scattered and swept away.  
  
Thus amid the turmoiling  
I will live to a good old age,  
And the deeds of a ceaseless toiling  
Shall shine in a deathless page.  
  
When my works from the nation's re-  
cords  
Shall gleam without shade or stain,  
I shall feel with a thrill triumphant  
That I have not lived in vain.  
  
And perchance, in the long, long fu-  
ture,  
E'er the star of my life goes down,  
I shall know that this land shines the  
brightest  
Of the gems in the British crown —  
  
That I was her proud defender  
Till she bore a victorious sway,  
In her robes of matchless splendor  
That never will fade away.  
Battleford, August 25, 1878.

---

The first issue of the Saskatchewan Herald was issued at Battleford on August 25th, 1878. The printing plant had arrived from Winnipeg by the cart trail and had taken a couple of months to arrive in Battleford. The office was set up in a vacant warehouse belonging to A. McDonald but the editor soon bought a small house on the south bank of the Battle River, about where the G.T.P. now crosses the river from A. J. Prongua.

Specimens of dirt which were claimed to be very rich in gold, were exhibited here last week. The place where found was held secret.

It is reported that a rich field of coal has been discovered on the North Branch; below Prince Albert. A thorough and exhaustive examination of the site was about to be made.

A new telegraph office has been opened at the junction of the Carleton and Battleford trails and named Gotland. Its establishment will prove of great value to the travelling public, as every one going either east or west must pass the door. (Now Humboldt.)

The pleasing news has been brought in that vast herds of buffalo are descending from the mountains to the great plain, that they are in good condition, and that some of them are within two days' travel of Battleford. If the Indians now have a successful hunt, it will lighten up the gloom that lately enshrouded the question. How shall the Indians subsist this winter?

A correspondent informs us that farming has been begun on a small scale at a point midway between Carlton and Prince Albert, and that the yield of this, the first year of cultivation, has been excellent.

A large and very flourishing settlement is being made on the north bank of the South Branch of the Saskatchewan, ten miles below St Laurent Mission. Many of the settlers are of the old families of Manitoba, while a few are from Ontario. The land is of the very finest quality with an abundance of good wood and water. This settlement is bound to prosper, as most of those taking up land are practical men of ample means, who begin by taking in plenty of young stock, pigs, poultry, farming implements, etc. It is commonly spoken of as "South Branch", and is best reached by crossing the lower ferry.

One night last week some person took advantage of the absence of Mr. Scott, the registrar, and his family, to break into and search the house. The housebreaker did not take away anything, but it being thought probable that he would return another night a watch was set upon the premises, and next morning the guard reported that he had been visited by three men in a wagon, who, foiled in their efforts to get quiet entrance into the building, drove off. An impression was taken of the footprint of the first visitor, but no trace has been discovered of the second ones.

## Treaty Payment at Sounding Lake

Great expectations were indulged in by the dealers accustomed to the Indian trade, of a rich harvest at the payment to be made at Sounding Lake. Outfits were there from all parts—from Benton at the south and Carleton at the north, from Forts Edmonton and Pitt at the west and Winnipeg at the east, and all intermediate points. There were in all thirty-one trading camps, embracing every variety of Indian goods, and, some novelties never before offered in such a market. For the first two days, during which from \$8,000 to \$10,000 were paid out, a good business was done; but on the third day Baker & Co., of Benton, began cutting prices, and were followed by the Hudson's Bay Co. The contest waxed so warm between these powerful companies that the smaller traders deemed it their best plan to pack their goods and watch the fight. Prices continued to fall until all thought of profit was lost sight of; as the following table giving a comparative list of the retail prices prevailing in Battleford and those obtained at the treaty ground will show:—

	Battleford.	Treaty.
Blankets, 3-point, pair .....	\$ 8 00	\$ 5 00
Tea, per pound .....	75	50
Winchester Rifles .....	60 00	45 00
Flour, per bag .....	10 00	10 00
Shirts, wincey .....	2 00	1 25
Prints and unbleached cotton .....	15	12½
Sugar, per pound .....	25	25
Tobacco, per pound .....	75c @ 1 00	50 @ 60
Cloth, per yard .....	2 50	1 25

Horses, unbroken (bronchos) only brought \$35 to \$45 each, which is less than they have ever before sold for; but trained horses commanded a better price. Very few were sold. Carts were in good demand and realized \$20 each.

There were several horse races, as is usual at these gatherings. Smith of Benton, had three races for comparatively small stakes, and won them all. Samples, also of Benton, had a horse that he backed to run against anything on the ground. A Half-breed accommodated him with one race for \$50, putting an Indian horse against the Benton one, and winning.

An eight-horse power threshing machine consigned to Edmonton passed westward lately.

A raft of lumber containing about 35 000 feet was recently brought down from Edmonton on Government account.

The "Herald Song" which was in the first copy of the Saskatchewan Herald, printed almost sixty years ago, was written by John Little, Battleford's telegraph operator at that time.

The Marquis of Lorne has been offered, and has accepted the post of Governor-General of Canada.

There is now a very large force of men at work on the line of railway between Crookston and Snake River, Miss., and assurances are given that the line will be finished and the cars running to St. Vincent on the American boundary by the first of November.

September 9, 1878

Mr. G. A. Simpson, D. L. S., has gone to survey Indian reserves in the vicinity of Fort Pitt.

There is now direct telegraphic communication between Battleford and Prince Arthur's Landing.

A threshing machine that is being imported by the Lieutenant-Governor is to be here in a few days.

A kiln of lime is being burned by the Public Works Department, for use on the works now in progress here.

"Humboldt," not "Gotland," is the name of the telegraph station recently opened at the junction of the Battleford and Carlton trails.

During the coming winter the mails for Victoria, Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton will be conveyed by horses instead of by dog train as heretofore.

The Indians belonging to the Eagle Hills reserve, eighteen miles from here, killed three buffalos the other day while on their way home from receiving their payment.

Ripe tomatoes in Mr. Forget's garden are among the things that gladden the eye, and give proof that Battleford is neither so cold nor its soil so sterile as its detractors would have the world believe.

Divine service was held in the school house on Sunday morning, 2nd instant, the Rev. Mr. McKay officiating. It is the reverend gentleman's intention to hold service there in the future every Sunday morning.

## Robbery Of Hon. Patrice Breland

Hon. Patrice Breland was a member of the North-West Council and while he was camped on the hill south of the Battle River on the morning of August 29th he found that his trunk had been robbed of \$60 which he could not identify further than there was a \$20 bill and a \$1.00 U.S. bill. Evidence pointed to Avilda Chartrand, a commercial traveller, camped near by. A witness at Mr. Forget's house near by said Chartrand had been speaking to him the previous evening about a pail having been left at the well down the hill and that he would go for it for fear it would be stolen. He went down the hill but returned by another path close to Breland's tent. The witness saw the lid of Breland's trunk being raised and lowered but could see no one as he could only see a few inches of the end of the trunk. Chartrand then went down the hill and returned by the other path, bringing up the pail. He was found guilty and asked that sentence be postponed until the next day. While packing his kit before going with the police he asked for a drink of water and before drinking threw something into it and swallowed it. As he was walking across to the jail on the other side of the river he had fits of vomiting and soon died. On examining what he had thrown up, it was found that he had swallowed the money as parts of a \$20 bill and a U.S. \$1 bill were found.

Mr. Chartrand was buried on Friday, Sept. 6th. He was the first white adult laid in the burying ground at Battleford.

---

Dr. Miller, attached to the mounted police force, and who has lately been stationed at Shoal Lake, has been transferred to this post, and his arrival is expected daily.

---

Nearly half a ton of Ontario butter is among the imports of Messrs Mahoney & Macdonald now on the road.

---

Chinoway alias Deschamp was sentenced to five years in penitentiary on August 27th for stealing a horse from Avilda Chartrand.

---

Telegraphic advices from "Buffalo Coulie", about midway between Battleford and Hay Lakes, inform us that buffalo in vast herds are there and amusing themselves by turning operators in a way peculiar to themselves. For some days past the line west had been broken, and on an employee, in search of the trouble, reached Buffalo Coulie he found several large bands busily employed in the highly amusing pastime of rubbing down poles and dragging the wire over the prairie on their horns.

The band of this once powerful tribe, The Assiniboines, who claim as their own the region around Battleford, and who have up to this time steadily refused to negotiate, accepted the terms and signed the treaty on the 29th ultimo. These Indians have long been considered among the poorest on the plains, owning few horses, and consequently but poorly provided for following the chase. On receiving their money they lost no time in buying things to make themselves comfortable for the winter, and also quite a number of horses, after which they started for their winter hunting grounds in the Cypress Hills.

This tribe is fast perishing and bids fair soon to become extinct. It is within the memory of men yet comparatively young, that there were at one time two thousand lodges on the plain now occupied by the barracks of the mounted police, and then it was but a portion of this people. At the present day they do not, all told, number one hundred and fifty lodges.

Several good buildings are lying unfinished, and the putting up of numerous others is held in abeyance, until such time as the Government shall have the town plot surveyed. It is time something were done to remove the anomaly existing in Battleford, of the Government creating a capital and spending large sums of money in erecting public buildings, while the town plot and neighborhood are pronounced "reserved" and left unsurveyed.

### Good Bye

These are the last words uttered as we buckle on the armor to go forth to fight and fall in life's great battle. We say them as one by one our darlings pass with noiseless footfall down into the valley of the shadow. We whisper them oftentimes to the ooden memories which come thronging around in our loneliness; but bye and bye we will know them no more when we pass through the shadow into a better land.

Good bye! good bye! Oh, bitter pain  
That thrills us as we say farewell;  
For we may never meet again,  
Or greet our loved ones—who can tell?  
Ah! who can tell but e'er our feet  
Grow weary on a distant shore,  
The forms we vainly yearn to greet  
Shall pass triumphantly before?  
Be still, poor heart! why quiver so?  
Keep back, ye tears which thickly flow.

Good bye! we murmur with a sob,  
As o'er our idol's clay we bend;  
While with the poor heart's dull deep throb  
The quivering tear drops thickly blend.  
Ah, misery thus to stand alone  
While loved ones pass with noiseless tread  
Where the low whisp'ring night winds moan,  
A requiem o'er the lost and dead.  
Keep down, oh, bitter crush of pain!  
They ne'er can breathe good bye again.

Good bye, ye memories robed in gloom—  
Ye bring no heaven-born hopes to cheer,  
Ye throng like spectres from the tomb—  
I only think of ye in fear.  
Ye speak not of some distant goal—  
Some glorious heritage to win;  
Ye only tell my quivering soul  
Of long years spent in crime and sin. /  
Good bye! my guide star's glimmering light  
Is shadowed in eternal night.

Good bye, ye friends of years long fled,  
Who one by one have left my side.  
Ye, too, have passed with noiseless tread  
The deep dark waters of the tide.  
Ah, never in this shadowy land  
Shall teardrops glitter in the eye;  
Ah, nevermore shall hand clasp hand,  
Or lips press lips in mute good bye.  
Toil, weary feet, there's rest at hand,  
Eternal in a better land.

Good bye, then, till these weary feet  
Shall know their lonely wanderings o'er,  
When we triumphantly shall meet  
In union on the shining shore.  
Oh, happy thought! Oh, welcome rest!  
Where the redeemed and true have trod;  
Knowing no sorrow with the blest,  
No tear drops falling on the sod.  
Throb, oh, poor heart! throb sadly on—  
There's quiet where the lost have gone.

If Mr. McKay could be induced to undertake the establishment of an express for the carriage of parcels of moderate weight, it would be a great boon to the people of the West, and add to his popularity as a public carrier.

September 23, 1878

Duck Lake now boasts a first-class blacksmith shop.

Capt. Moore, of Prince Albert, will shortly pay a visit to Battleford

Fall ploughing is being briskly prosecuted throughout this settlement.

The name of Mr. George Gopsil was inadvertently omitted from the list of the first jury in the criminal court of this district.

A branch office of the Department of Dominion Lands has been opened at Prince Albert with Mr. George Duck, late of Winnipeg, as agent.

Through the exertions of the Hon. D. A. Smith, a postoffice has been established at Prince Albert, with a mail service from Grandin (St. Laurent).

The Battleford "Billiard Hall" is amongst the things that were, Ben Berry having sold his whole outfit and gone to Fort McLeod via Cypress Hills.

Divine service will be held in Messrs. Stobart, Eden & Co.'s building every Sunday morning at 10:30. A flag will be hoisted half an hour before the commencement of the service.

Mr. George D. Northgraves, watchmaker and jeweller, of Winnipeg, is on his way west to pay Battleford and other business centres a visit. Mr. Northgraves is one of the pioneers of Manitoba and whether he determines to stay in the west himself or not, we predict good results to the country from his visit.

Buffalo continue to advance on this settlement and are now quite numerous fifty miles south. Several parties of hunters have gone from town to secure a supply of meat for their use next winter.

Mr. Stewart D. Mulkins left for the East on the 20th. He expects to reach Winnipeg in sixteen or seventeen days.

## The Riders of the Plains.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE, CANADA

Oh! let the prairies echo with  
The ever-welcome sound—  
Ring out the boots and saddles,  
Its stinging notes resound.  
Our horses toss their bridled heads,  
And chafe against the reins—  
Ring out—ring out the marching call  
For the Riders of the Plains.  
O'er many a league of prairie wide  
Our pathless way must be;  
And round it roams the fiercest tribes  
Of Blackfoot and of Cree.  
But danger from their savage hands  
Our dauntless hearts disdain—  
The hearts that bear the helmet up—  
The Riders of the Plain!  
The thunder storm sweeps o'er our way,  
But onward still we go;  
We scale the weary mountain's range,  
Descend the valleys low;  
We face the broad Saskatchewan,  
Made fierce with heavy rains—  
With all its might it cannot check  
The Riders of the Plains.  
We track the sprouting cactus land,  
When lost to white man's ken,  
We startle there the creatures wild  
And fight them in their den;  
For where'er our leaders bid,  
The bugle sounds its strain,  
In marching sections forward go  
The Riders of the Plains.  
The Fire King stalks the broad prairie,  
And fearful 'tis to see  
The rushing wall of flame and smoke  
Girdling round rapidly.  
'Tis there we shout defiance  
And mock its fiery chains—  
For safe the cleared circle guards  
The Riders of the Plains.

For us no cheerful hostellries  
Their welcome gates unfold—  
No generous board or downy bed,  
Await our troopers bold.  
Beneath the starry canopy  
At eve, when daylight wanes,  
There lie the hardy slumberers —  
The Riders of the Plains!

But that which tries the courage sore  
Of horseman and of steed,  
Is want of blessed water—  
Blessed water is our need.  
We'll face, like men, whate'er befalls,  
Of perils, hardships, pains—  
Oh! God, deny not water to  
The Riders of the Plains.

We muster but three hundred  
In all this "Great Lone Land,"  
Which stretches from Superior's waves  
To where the Rockey's stand;  
But not one heart doth falke,  
No coward voice complains,  
That far too few in numbers are  
The Riders of the Plains.

In England's mighty Empire  
Each man must take his stand:  
Some guard her honored flag at sea,  
Some bear it well by land.  
Its not our part to face her foes—  
Then what to us remains?  
What duty does our country give  
To the Riders of the Plains?

Our mission is to plant the right  
Of British freedom here—  
Restrain the lawless savages,  
And protect the pioneer.  
And 'tis a proud and daring trust  
To hold these vast domains  
With but three hundred mounted men—  
"The Riders of the Plains."

Red River has now ten British steamers on its waters and more are being built.

At a recent meeting of the Pan-Anglican Conference, the Bishop of Saskatchewan addressed those present upon the state of his diocese, which with Moosonee and Arthabaska, had lately been formed out of the old diocese of Rupert's Land. The four Sees now formed an ecclesiastical province, of which the Bishop of Rupert's Land was Metropolitan and the Archbishop of Canterbury Primate. When, in 1866, at the request of the Bishop of Rupert's Land, he became Archdeacon of the Red River settlement, the journey from Western Canada occupied him three weeks, whereas it could now be accomplished in five days.

The result of the elections has taken every one by surprise, but details received by telegraph, confirmed as they are by the Globe's admission, leaves no room for doubt. When at first a brief despatch announced that the opposition had carried the country by a majority of forty, it seemed so improbable that it was looked upon as a canard and it was not until The HERALD'S Special came to hand that it was believed. Manitoba, for the second time in its brief history, has found a vacancy for a defeated leader—the opposition being removed to let the late Sir George Cartier in for Provencher some years ago; and now Mr. Ryan resigns his seat in Marquette in favor of Sir John A. Macdonald.

The mounted police are busy plastering and banking up the barracks and making everything snug for the winter.

October 21, 1878

The school at Eagle Hills Mission will be opened on the 21st.

A detachment of ten men of the mounted police will shortly be sent from Shoal Lake to Prince Albert.

The Rev. Mr. Steinhauer, Victoria, is laid up in consequence of having severely cut himself with an axe.

A train of carts laden with storm windows for the government buildings and other articles arrived on Thursday; and on Friday and Saturday several other large trains came in with merchandise for Messrs. Mahoney & Macdonald and stores for the police.

The old pigeon-hole table that did service for many years in Monchamp's saloon, Winnipeg, and which afterwards formed the equipment of the Battleford billiard hall, was taken another step westward on the 7th, having been sold to Donald McLeod, of Edmonton.

Dogs are useful in their place, but when starved and left to cater for themselves they become a nuisance. During the past week they have entered several dwellings and storehouses—in some cases burrowing under the foundation—and played sad havoc with the provisions stored therein; and on Friday night they killed one of a pair of valuable pigs just brought in, at considerable trouble and expense, by Mr. Peter Ballentine.

The Rev. Fathers Hert and Merer, two newly ordained missionary priests, arrived on Wednesday. The former will remain at Battleford for a time and will celebrate mass at half-past ten every Sunday morning during his stay. Father Merer has gone on to St. Albert. Bishop Grandin, who is very much improved in health, will remain in Paris until after the meeting of the congregation of the Oblates, which will be held in July next; and will return to his diocese about this time next year.

Winnipeg got a city council first and a city hall afterwards. In Battleford we have a town hall—the council will come in due time. A few weeks ago His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor suggested the propriety of putting up a building that would answer for a school house and for holding public meetings in, and which might be used for public worship by all denominations, and offered to give \$100 as his contribution. The Rev. J. A. McKay took the matter in hand and met with so liberal a response from the citizens that he was able to begin work last week; and already the walls of the house are up. The building will be 18 by 24 feet and is situated on the east side of the road up the hill, about midway between upper and lower town.

Mr. M. E. Dickieson, Indian Agent, has returned from making the payments to the Indians coming under what is known as Treaty No. 6. The Indians who had previously signed expressed themselves as quite satisfied with the operations of the treaty, and every year witnesses a gratifying increase in the number giving their adhesion to it. In 1876 the total number paid in this treaty district was 2,776, which grew to 4,530 in 1877—at increase of 1,354. In 1878 there were 6,295 paid, being 3,519 more than in 1876, and 1,765 more than in 1877. This accession to the numbers is due in part to natural increase, but mainly to the facilities afforded of reaching the various points of payment, which have been fixed at places most easy of access to the hunting parties. A careful estimate places the total Indian population of this treaty district at about 7,000 souls.

## Gold In Battle River.

The existence of gold deposits in Battle River has been proved and it now only remains for some energetic men to introduce the necessary machinery and realize a rich reward for their energy and industry.

While staying at Battleford waiting the arrival of his train, Mr. T. E. Burleigh, one of the oldest, most experienced and skilful miners on the Saskatchewan, made several cursory examinations of the Battle River and "prospected" at two points on the stream, at both of which he found gold. His washing apparatus having been sent back to Edmonton, and his stay here being but short, he had not time to work any of the bars on the Battle River. The quantities obtained with the pan prove the existence of "paying dirt" in sufficient quantities if the proper means were used to work it. The precious dust is also to be found on bars in the Saskatchewan not far from here.

Mr. Burleigh also had rubys that he gathered on the main river.

One of the places prospected was at the ford, just below the foot bridge.

For the information of anyone who may think of trying their luck here we would say, that Battleford is the best supplied and cheapest market in the North-West.

---

Mrs. Joseph H. Price arrived from Winnipeg on October 5th.

---

Mr. John McDougall, freighter, and Mr. Burleigh went east on the 16th.

---

There are so many counterfeit \$1 Dominion notes in circulation that the Government is having new plates prepared, and as soon as the new issue is out the old ones will be called in.

---

On Monday last a party of Turtle Lake Saulteaux arrived from the plains with a quantity of pemican, dried meat, leather and beaver and wolf skins. They are on their way home to engage in their usual fall fishing operations and to prepare for the winter hunt. The last buffalo they killed was only sixty miles from here. These Indians exchanged most of the products of their buffalo hunt for articles to make themselves and families comfortable during the approaching winter. They have not yet come into the treaty, and being industrious and frugal, claim that they are better off and more independent, and less apt to suffer from want, than those bands that have done so.

## No Clouds — No Rain

If the glorious sunshine  
Smiled upon us ever,  
Autumn's golden harvest fields  
We should welcome never.

Clouds must dim the radiant light,  
Or refreshing rain  
Never upon tree or flower  
Would descend again.

Earth would be a barren waste,  
Birds and flowers die,  
If the dark-wing'd clouds should  
never  
Veil the azure sky.

Human hearts are like the earth;  
If no tear-drops fall,  
Love's own sweetest spirit-flowers  
Would not bloom at all.

Sigh not, then, if sorrow's clouds  
Sometimes hide the sun;  
Richest blessings are in store  
When the dew-drops come.

Drearier than earth's barren wastes  
Human hearts would be,  
Were sweet feeling's fount unfilled  
From the cloud's dark treasury.

—Canadian Spectator. H. M.

The miners, T. E. Burleigh and Tackaberry, mentioned in our last issue as having left Edmonton on the 1st September on a prospecting expedition down the Saskatchewan, arrived here on the 1st inst., Mr. Burleigh has gone to Ontario after an absence of eleven years, six of which were spent on the Saskatchewan. He takes with him a number of specimens of gold in its various forms, besides many mineral and vegetable products gathered during his residence in the West. Mr. Tackaberry has returned to Edmonton.

---

November 4, 1878

That most veracious chronicler, "the oldest inhabitant", never saw the Battle River so low as it is this fall.

The Rev. Peter Straith returned from Prince Albert on the 21st. He will preach here every alternate Sunday.

Dr. Porter, of Prince Albert, paid a flying visit to the capital on the 21st ult. and returned to Prince Albert the following day. The Doctor looks well and hearty and evidently finds the northwest to agree with him.

Mr. MacKenzie recognizes the general result of the elections and will lose no time in giving constitutional effect to the verdict of the country as recorded at the polls, but will resign as soon as the returns from British Columbia and Manitoba are received.

## A Missionary Shot Dead.

### DEATH OF THE REV. MR. SKINNER, OF VICTORIA

News was received here on Wednesday evening, by special courier from Carlton, of the terrible death of the Rev. Mr. Skinner, a young minister of the Methodist Church of Canada, while on his way to his station at Victoria. The story as told by his servant, and given below, is all that we have yet learned; and it is extremely unsatisfactory. If, as the servant says, the deceased was so far on his journey that it took from Thursday morning till Friday night to return to Carlton, the party should have been very near Battleford. But if the servant satisfactorily explains this, there still remains for him to justify his inhuman conduct in leaving his master, whom he thought to be dead, to die alone on the prairie or to be devoured by wild beasts, while he had, according to his own admission, the two horses that Mr. Skinner drove in his lifetime with which to take the body along.

The following is the letter sent to the Stipendiary Magistrate here:—

Carlton, Oct. 26, 1878.

The Rev. Mr. Skinner, Methodist clergyman, passed here on Friday, the 18th inst., on his way to Victoria, accompanied by a servant.

The servant returned yesterday about dark and made the following statement:—

About 8 o'clock on Thursday morning (24th), Mr. Skinner told me to get the horses; when going towards them I heard the report of fire-arms—one shot; when I came near the camp I called three times to Mr. Skinner to come for his horses, meaning the two he drove himself, and got no answer; when I got to the camp I saw Mr. Skinner lying on the ground and blood flowing from his chest; there was something flowing from his nose and mouth also. I was so much frightened that I was afraid I would fall and not be able to leave the place; his eyes were turned up like a dead man's and I came away as fast as I could. I think he is dead.

In reply to a question he said he did not remain more than fifteen minutes after he saw Mr. Skinner.

The corpse was sent for, to be taken back to Carlton. It would have been sent on to Battleford had there been any certainty of the men being able to cross the river.

The case being more particularly one for the police to investigate, and knowing that Inspector Walker would be at Carlton

about the time the courier arrived here, the magistrate left the matter to be dealt with by him.

The servant was a man named Julien, who was in partnership last spring with Macdonald at the ferry near Fort Ellice, and formerly a member of the volunteer force in Manitoba.

Monday, Nov. 4.

Up to the time of going to press no further news has been received from Carlton. We know, however, that Chief Factor Clarke, who is magistrate, must have reached home in the early part of last week and have no doubt that he has done all that it was possible to do in the premises.

The feeling of sorrow for the unfortunate occurrence is very keenly felt here, and the desire for a searching investigation universally expressed.

---

Since our last issue the population of the capital has been largely increased by the return of a number of freighters and the arrival of a good many people who will winter here.

---

Wolves have been quite numerous in the vicinity of the town during the past two or three weeks. Mr. D. Macfarlane killed a large one last week with a charge of chicken shot.

---

The Rev. James Duncan, of the Presbyterian Church, recently arrived at Prince Albert to the pastoral charge of which place he has been appointed. Mr. Duncan received his theological training at Manitoba College, Winnipeg, and is the first graduate of that institution admitted to the work of the ministry. Just before leaving Winnipeg he was presented by his fellow students with two handsome books as a token of their kindly feeling towards him. Mr. Duncan made the trip from Winnipeg to Prince Albert in eleven days and a half.

---

As Constable Kennedy of the mounted police force was returning from Battleford to his post at Prince Albert, he was overtaken on the 20th inst by a snow storm a short distance from Carlton, and being determined to reach that place that night he started with his horse and buckboard, leaving his companions, who were more heavily laden. The storm increased so that he was unable to see his way and the horse naturally went before the wind and took him off the road. When night came on Const Kennedy found himself on the open prairie, without food or the means of making a fire and had to remain all night with his clothes and bedding perfectly saturated with snow. In the morning when the storm had ceased

he was enabled to start in the direction of Carlton. Meantime Fisher, one of his travelling companions, pressed on to Carlton, arriving there about 11 o'clock on Monday, when he reported Kennedy as having lost his way. Two Hudson's Bay Company's men and an Indian were at once mounted and sent out in search and found him coming straight for his destination; but his horse was so exhausted that he had no hope of reaching Carlton that day.

---

The 17th of October was the date fixed by the Earl of Dufferin for leaving Canada. It is said that he will immediately proceed to Asia Minor in the capacity of First Commissioner.

---

November 18, 1878

---

Dr. Miller, late of Shoal Lake, has been transferred to Battleford.

---

The grain crops at Prince Albert thresh out fully as well as was expected and the grain is of excellent quality and unusually clean.

---

The formation of a polo club at Prince Albert is the latest in the way of amusement—a capital game and likely to become very popular.

---

One of the latest additions to the population of our city is Mr. William Laurie, the eastern agent of the HERALD, who intends spending the coming winter in the capital of the North-West.

---

Mr. St. John, late Sheriff of the North-West Territories, has been appointed to the superintendency of Indian Affairs in the Manitoba superintendency, in place of Mr. Provencher, removed. Mr. St. John's district embraces the whole of Manitoba, Keewatin and the North-West Territories.

---

"A system of rigid economy" in all departments of the Government is the programme laid down by the new administration, and as a firstfruit a number of extra clerks in the public departments at Ottawa will shortly be discharged.

---

The new cabinet has been completed and sworn in, with Sir John A. Macdonald as Premier and Minister of the Interior. This Department and that of the Secretary of State, of which Senator Aikens has again assumed control, are the ones whose management most nearly affects the interests of the North-West.

## The Late Rev. Mr. Skinner.

### INQUEST AND FINDING OF THE COURT

The body of the late Rev. Mr. Skinner, who was accidentally killed on Oct. 27th, about fifteen miles east of the crossing of Jackfish Creek, was brought into Carlton by Algernon Percy, an Englishman who was returning from a hunt in the Rockies, and a search party sent out from Carlton. An inquest was held by Lawrence Clarke and Henry S. Moore, Esquires. After hearing all the evidence they rendered the following verdict:—

The finding of the Court is that the said Rev. Mr. Skinner was shot to death, whilst he, the said Rev. Mr. Skinner, was in the act of loading his buckboard and the belief of this Court is that the calamity was purely accidental and that death was instantaneous.

The deceased's servant, Moses Julien, was severely censured by the Court for his inhumanity in abandoning the body in the hasty manner stated in his deposition, and for not having made the slightest effort before he left to find out whether the deceased man was dead or alive.

The Court strongly points out the danger in sending young and inexperienced men into the country without proper escort. The deceased Mr. Skinner had to trust to chance help on his journey, and the servant employed by him as a voyaging companion was totally unfitted to cope with any difficulties that might be met with in a prolonged journey through a wild uninhabited country.

The Court orders that the body of the deceased Rev. Mr. Skinner shall be coffined and sent to the settlement of Prince Albert to be buried in the Church of England graveyard at that place, and that the Incumbent of St. Mary's Church shall be requested to officiate at the interment.

The Court orders that the property belonging to the deceased, Rev. Mr. Skinner, shall be held in possession of the Hudson Bay's Company until delivered up to the proper authorities.

---

The weather is most delightful. Battle and Saskatchewan rivers are both open.

---

The Rev. Father Lestanc left on the 9th inst. for Red Deer Forks, where he will pass the winter.

Winnipeg, Nov. 14.

---

The American railway was finished to the boundary line on Nov. 9th and there are only thirty miles to do upon the Pembina branch. Trains will run from Winnipeg on the first of December.

The members of the Cabinet, with the exception of Mr. Langevin, the new Postmaster-General, and Mr. Baby, Minister of Inland Revenue, have been returned by acclamation.

December 2, 1878

A corner in coal oil has run it up to \$3.00 a gallon.

Mr. Peter Ballendine has just built a new store a little to the east of his old one.

New windows and doors add much to the appearance of the Roman Catholic chapel here.

We are pleased to learn that Dr. George A. Kennedy, of Dundas, has been appointed to the position of Surgeon to the North-West Mounted Police, rendered vacant by the resignation of Dr. Nevitt. Dr. Kennedy is undoubtedly well qualified for the position and we heartily congratulate him and his friends on his appointment to such an important position. He leaves Dundas for his new sphere of labor immediately. Dr. Kennedy will be stationed at Fort McLeod.

A bakery is amongst the latest additions to the industrial enterprises of Battleford. Good-bye to "flap-jack" and "bannock".

On Sunday, Nov. 24th, a Cree service was conducted by Rev. Mr. McKay at the house of Mr. Cornelius Pruden, of this place.

All Battleford suspended operations and turned out to witness a bare-back broncho race on Tuesday, on the north side of Battle River. It was a half mile dash, for \$10 against a bag of pemican, Donald McIvor naming Mr. Dickieson's buckskin, and the other horse being Basil Lafonde's sorrel. The sorrel horse won.

Apples and pears of the finest kind recently made their appearance in this part of the North-West and we fear the one who introduced them has much to answer for. He has awakened memories that will not down, and set everyone thinking of "home" and the trees that bore the finest fruit when they were boys and girls. Oh! the home-sickness that the sight of this fruit created. "I wish I were a boy again" was the refrain on every tongue. Inspector Walker is responsible for all this. He intends it for the best—but the apples didn't hold out. Let his name be emblazoned on the scroll of fame as being the first to introduce pears and apples into this western land.

## Politics In Manitoba.

A great change has recently been made in the composition of the Cabinet of Manitoba, brought about by the retirement from public life of the Premier, Hon. R. A. Davis.

The Hon. James McKay, Minister of Agriculture, has also retired, as, under the operations of the Independence of Parliament Act, he would either have to throw up his contract for carrying the mail in the North-West or resign his seat in the Local House. To have retained this and throw up his mail contract at this time, would have been felt here as a sore calamity.

The Hon. John Norquay having been sent for by the Lieutenant-Governor and invited to form a Cabinet, that gentleman undertook the task. He will himself assume the duties of Premier and Provincial Treasurer; the Hon. Mr. Ryan will succeed him as Minister of Public Works; while Mr. C. P. Brown, of Gladstone, will take the Provincial Secretaryship. Mr. D M. Walker enters the Ministry as Attorney-General without a seat, and the department of the Minister of Agriculture will be left unfilled for the present. It is understood that Mr. Walker will offer himself for the representation of Winnipeg at the ensuing election.

 The river at the ford just below the foot bridge is still unfrozen.

Dr. Hagarty, Medical Superintendent of the North-West, left last evening (Oct. 1st) for Portage la Prairie and thence to Battleford.

For the first time this fall the telegraph line was worked through to Winnipeg on the 26th. This is one of the longest circuits on the continent, it being about 650 miles by the line from this place to Winnipeg.

Canada's new Governor General, the Marquis of Lorne, accompanied by the Princess Louise, arrived at Halifax on the 23rd ult. Very rough weather was experienced on the trip. A welcome to "Lorne and Bonnie Louise".

On the 5th of November a number of wild geese and ducks that were at Red Deer Forks took flight to the north. From that date the weather continued very mild up to the 17th when rain fell, and the ice that had formed on Battle River rotted and became so full of air holes that it was dangerous to cross it. Large quantities of meat that had been killed to be frozen for winter use spoiled on account of the mildness of the weather. On the 22nd and again on

the night of the 25th, several inches of snow fell, the days intervening being mild and pleasant. Up to the time of going to press the days have been clear and calm, with cool, not cold, nights.

---

December 16, 1878

The mail from the east arrived on Friday afternoon, the twenty-fifth day from Winnipeg.

---

One day last week a band of three fine red deer bucks was started in a little bluff about a mile from town.

---

Until further notice, there will be divine service in the school-house every Sunday, both morning and evening.

---

The bread daily turned out of the Battleford bakery is of a quality fully equal in every respect to the best that is sold in Winnipeg.

---

Mr. Northgraves will remain here only one week longer, as he intends to be at Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton about the first of January.

---

About nine o'clock on Thursday evening a beautiful phenomenon was visible in the heavens here. The sky was covered by a light fleecy cloud, through which the moon shone brightly. Suddenly the clouds seemed to be dissipated as it were by the rays of the moon, and that orb shone out from the centre of a disc of the clearest and brightest blue, which was again surrounded by brilliant rings showing all the colors of the rainbow.

---

On Christmas eve midnight mass will be celebrated in the Roman Catholic chapel here. On this occasion it is intended that the chapel shall be decorated with evergreens and brilliantly illuminated.

---

Some Indians in from Turtle Lake bring news that, contrary to appearances in the fall, red deer and moose are even more than usually numerous.

---

There has been a sudden fall in the price of flour in this market during the past week, the best XXXX Portage Mills brands in seamless sacks selling at \$6.00 a bag.

---

On Tuesday last week direct telegraphic communication was had between Hay Lakes and Selkirk—a distance of 700 miles. There are few, if any, circuits on the continent as long as this.

## The School House.

This building, which has been put up by the people of this town, was opened for Divine service for the first time on Sunday, the 8th inst., when the Rev. J. A. McKay preached in English at the morning and in Cree in the afternoon, and the Rev. Peter Straith in English in the evening. The building was well filled both morning and evening, with attentive hearers.

On Tuesday a day school was opened, and bids fair to be well attended and productive of great good, as already about twenty children have been entered upon the register. The school is conducted by the Rev. Peter Straith and will for the present be open only in the afternoon.

The erection of this hall marks an onward movement in the town. It is the best built and finished house in the place, outside of the government buildings. It speaks well for Battleford that so nice a building should have been put up for purely public purposes as it will be available for school and religious services, public meetings, and any gathering having for its aim the good of the people or the advancement of the town.

---

Harry Walker, whose name is a household word in Manitoba in connection with musical matters, arrived here on the 29th. He has been appointed trumpeter to the Battleford detachment of Mounted Police.

---

An examination of Battle River was made by Mr. George Gunn last week, with a view to finding a suitable site for a water-power grist and saw mill. Mr. Gunn found several places possessing the requisite advantages but he will make another and more exact measurement before beginning operations at the mill.

---

An accident that might have been fraught with serious consequence happened on Thursday evening. During Mr. Burnett's absence at a neighbor's, the upper part of his house gave way under the weight of goods stored thereon, and fell with a crash that made those living nearby think that a little earthquake was around.

